

Verse 10

Job 42:10

"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before."

Oh sure, after the calamity has passed God blessed him. God made a bet on Job with Satan. Would Job curse God if he was left to Satan's attacks. The answer was: almost. Job's wife asked him to. His friends tried hard to depress Job. Even Job himself began to question himself and God. I find it interesting that Satan did not return to see how it was going after chapter two. No more trouble came to Job after the second chapter.

I do think that God is the key in this. If you read this book, notice that God initiates the conversation with Satan. God asks him where he has been. Satan having to give account is interesting. Then God prompts the conversation towards Job. He is egging Satan on to consider Job. God did it twice. It's also interesting that Satan had an opinion. Think of the Spirit of God leading Jesus into the temptation in the wilderness. Here God is tempting Job. Again, Satan is involved.

I know I've said interesting a lot. It is! This is how tragedy works. This will be hard for some. To heal we need to pray. For ourselves? Sure, but the main way we heal is through praying for others. It's a somber truth that knowing another people's pain lessens ours. Realizing that some people are less fortunate than us is humbling. That is why God told Job to pray for his friends. Who can give you back what you lost? Why did you lose it? I had a wife, two boys, a house, and a good life. God took it all away from me in divorce. I was reduced to a towel. Seriously! Support payments loomed. Living from home to home loomed. Within 4 years I gained my kids back. I gained a new wife. I have had about 9 cars, 10 trips, built a house, and been to university all in about 20 years. I have been blessed. Yet, I have learned that others pain is more important than mine.

Finally, what is the lesson from Job? I have taken it this way. I mocked God before my divorce. Bad idea by the way. I thought my goodness gave me an in with God, bad idea by the way. I thought my sin needed to fully leave. Can it? I don't know. Job was not perfect if you read this book carefully. Yet, God liked Job a lot. God put Job up against Satan and won. God must have believed in Job. Do you think God believes in you?